

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /106 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI KS KN

SUBJECT: US SOLDIER HARASSED AT PANMUNJOM

1. SEPT 14 KOREAN PRESS CARRIED BRIEF ARTICLE ABOUT "BRAWL" THAT BROKE OUT BETWEEN AMERICAN SOLDIER AND GROUP OF NORTH KOREAN REPORTERS IN COURSE OF 354TH MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPT 12. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS SKIRMISH DEVELOPED WHEN AMERICAN SOLDIER OF KOREAN ORIGIN, KIM SUK C., JOKED THAT "MY NAME IS KIM IL SUNG." PRESS REPORTED FIGHT WAS QUICKLY HALTED BY INTERVENTION OF US SECURITY GUARDS.

2. FACTS OF CASE ACCORDING UNC/MAC EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: SPECIALIST 5 KIM, SERVING WITH THE FIRST SIGNAL BRIGADE OF US FORCES KOREA, WAS ASSIGNED TO TAKE PICTURES DURING THE 354TH MAC MEETING AT THE MAC MEETING HALL AT PANMUNJOM. AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING ONE NORTH KOREAN REPORTER CAME UP BEHIND KIM AND GRABBED HIS BELT WHILE TWO OTHER JOSTLED HIM FROM THE SIDES, ONE STICKING HIM IN THE PROCESS WITH A BALLPOINT PEN. AFTER A 15 SECOND SKIRMISH KIM WAS HELPED AWAY BY US PERSONNEL.

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY, SOME THREE HOURS LATER WHILE MEETING

WAS STILL IN PROGRESS KIM WAS AGAIN ASSIGNED TO TAKE PICTURES AT THE MAC BUILDING WHEN SAME THREE DPRK REPORTERS HARASSED HIM ABOUT HIS NAME BADGE "KIM", ASKING HIM WHAT HIS FIRST NAME WAS. AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES OF THIS KIM BECAME EXASPERATED AND REPLIED THAT HE WAS KIM IL SUNG. THIS INFURIATED NORTH KOREANS AND SPECIALIST KIM ONCE AGAIN HAD TO BE HASTILY WITHDRAWN FROM THE SCENE.

4. UNC MAC OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT KIM HAD BEEN HARASSED ON AT LEAST ONE PREVIOUS OCCASION WHEN HE WAS IN THE JOINT SECURITY AREA AT PANMUNJOM AND IT SEEMS CLEAR HE HAS BECOME SPECIAL TARGET. ACCORDINGLY UNC INFORMS US HE WILL NOT BE REASSIGNED TO DUTIES AT PANMUNJOM AGAIN.
SNEIDER

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